

We've Got You Covered

Story and photo by Spc. C. Elijah Spencer
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan — On the front lines, beyond the confines of the earth filled hescos that line the fire bases along the southern regions of Afghanistan, our soldiers brave the harsh conditions of thin air, jagged-edged rocks, and barren stretches of land. Day after day, these men are constantly in pursuit of the individuals that have oppressed the people of Afghanistan for so long, and now hide in caves on mountains, waiting for a cowards' moment to strike at the defenseless. While US coalition forces have been successful in their mission in Afghanistan, there comes a time when even the infantry calls for help.

When the men and women of Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 130th Aviation Brigade of the North Carolina National Guard "Panthers" get that call, not a second is wasted manning their birds of prey, the mighty AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter. These Aviators take to the skies and render aid to any soldier in need of close



CW2 John D. Piland, from Raleigh, N.C. and CW4 Mitch Rose, from High Point, N.C. look out from their AH-64 Apache prior to take off.

air support.

"We're like the 911 of the air," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl L. Bauknight, from Oxford, N.C.

The Apache is equipped with a technologically advanced Integrated Helmet and Designator Display System (IHADDS). The movement of the pilot's head causes sensors in his or her hel-

met to correspond with the aircraft's weapons system. Wherever the pilot looks, the gun and target designation systems point to that location allowing the pilot and the selected weapon system to become one in a lethal platform in either day or night conditions.

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Beware the Kandahar Krud

Story by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
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Life in Kandahar Air Field (KAF) can be very fast at times. The Kandahar Krud (KAF Krud) stops for no one; it keeps you running, for the toilet, that is. Many soldiers here have fallen victim to this unrelenting illness. It can affect anyone at anytime.

The KAF Krud is a Norwalk like virus, an illness that occurs on cruise ships, stated Maj. Philip D. Chadwick,

an emergency physician with the Charlie Medical Company, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

This virus is passed on from person to person during everyday activities. Sharing a towel or shaking someone's hand can pass on this sickness.

"Many soldiers on this base have contact with the locals which may also cause the spread of the KAF Krud", said Chadwick.

It could have also been brought down from Bagram Air Field, or even from

people not washing their hands enough, added Chadwick.

KAF Krud is a low grade persistent gastroenteritis. The symptoms of which are: upset stomach, cramping, abdominal pain, and diarrhea for at least three days. Sick call has had a constant stream of soldier looking to combat this virus.

"We are seeing quite a few cases [of KAF Krud], but it is still less than one percent of the [KAF] population", said Chadwick.

The KAF Krud is an illness that

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From the Top

New shotgun to be fielded in Afghanistan



By Pfc. Brian Trapp
FORT BENNING, Ga. (Army News Service, Oct. 7, 2003) — Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab's lightweight shotgun system is undergoing operational inspection and test firing for 200 shotguns to be fielded to the 10th Mountain Division for future use in Afghanistan.

The 10th Mountain will field the lightest variation of the 12-gauge shotgun system, which attaches under the M-4 carbine and weighs 2 pounds, 11 ounces — less than the M-203 grenade launcher.

The system is a five-round, box-magazine-fed, manually operated shotgun. It uses a straight push-pull type bolt action that can be switched for either left or right-handed users. The attachment variation is 16.5 inches in length and uses the host weapon's sights. It is capable of firing lethal, non-lethal and breaching rounds.

The shotgun stand-alone version is converted from the attachable version. It has a pistol grip and a butt stock. The stand-alone weighs 4 pounds, 3 ounces and is 24 inches long, collapsed.

This version also has a reversible charging handle and is capable of firing lethal, non-lethal and breaching rounds.

The original system was a prototype for proof of concept, said Mike Barnes, chief, Robotics Division, DBBL. The one being fielded applied lessons learned from the first iterations of testing to make them more reliable in the field.

"We have identified a couple of areas for minor changes that we are doing on site," said Mike Kennedy, project officer, DBBL. "In the future, from what we've found here, the designer can make these changes in manufacturing to make it an overall better shotgun."

The minor adjustments included polishing some of the parts to reduce friction.

"When this system is fielded, we will know every shotgun is in good working order," he said. "They will be ready to go into the hands of soldiers for operational use."

When the testing is finished, about 15,000 rounds will be fired through the 200 systems going to the field.

"Out of 200 weapons, I've fired about 50 of them and I'm confident in the system," said Staff Sgt. William Partin, instructor, Light Fighter School, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I think it's a great weapon system, being able to attach to the M-4 and as a stand-alone," he said. "I like that it's light. This is the lightest weapon I've carried in the Army besides a pistol. It weighs just about nothing."

Soldiers can use the shotgun as an all-around tool in an urban environment, Barnes said. They can use the non-lethal and breaching capabilities, and the big advantage is that they don't have to sling their primary weapon to do it.

"Think about what's going on in the world right now," said Staff Sgt. Tito Zelada, instructor, Light Fighter School, 10th Mountain Div.



Mountain Warrior Weekly falls under the supervision of The Combined Joint Task Force 180 and is published weekly on Mondays.

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Mountain Warrior Weekly, a U.S.

Army newsletter, is produced by the 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

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"You have combatants and noncombatants together in a crowd and (the non-lethal capability) is a good way to neutralize them, whether or not they are armed."

"Numerous units in the field expressed the need for a tool like this," Barnes said. "I think it will get a lot of use."

"I thought the I thought the Remington 870, what we teach with, was sufficient but this gives us the upper hand on the way we breach," Partin said. "It's more accessible and easier than having to switch weapons."

Cost for the system is yet to be determined, because it is dependent on production quantities.

Afghanistan - A Country In Transition

*Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Dave S.
Thompson*

211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan – The lone “improved road” leading from Kandahar Air Field (KAF) to Kandahar City, is a stretch of highway notorious for obliterating axles and shredding the tires of unsuspecting motorist. Pitted with potholes and pavement irregularities, the five mile trek challenges even the most experienced of drivers. On either side of the road, herds of camels and goats roam free on the desolate landscape. In the distance, the mountains looming like angry gods, shadow the fading horizon.

On this day, a caravan of nomads are on the move; the brilliant colors of their shawls and clothing paint a stunning contrast to the stark bland of the desert floor. Files of camels, laden with all sorts of tents and sticks, grain and tools, form an intricate procession of a life unknown to most. These nomads, driven it seems by the turn of the wind, destined to forsaken lands, symbolize the harshness of life in this embattled country.

As a five vehicle Civil Affairs convoy closes in on the entrance to Kandahar City, two large portals, known to westerners as the “Golden Arches”, stand as welcome figures to a metropolis lost in time.

Civil Affairs is responsible for assessing the needs of the community and facilitating the means to improve the lives of the people here.

The US Army’s 407th Civil Affairs (CA) Team has run this gauntlet more times than they can remember. They have become remarkably familiar with the “survival of the fittest” street mentality fostered here. They are an Army Reserve Unit out of Twin Cities, MN. Since arriving in country on 7 July, they have made significant progress in their effort to “win the hearts and minds of people” in this region.

“We are the arm of the United States Congress and our mission is to facilitate positive change to the infrastructure of this country,” said Sergeant Jessie Gibbons, Team NCOIC.

Major Victoria Goodge, from Minneapolis, MN, commands the 6 soldier team. A petite woman with brilliant blue eyes and an unmistakable Minnesotan accent, she deals directly with local men who historically have regarded women as less than equals.

“Amazingly, I have not experienced any prejudices [from the men I deal with]. They have been absolutely wonderful. They know I am the team leader and treat me with the utmost respect and courtesy,” she stated.

Today’s mission is two fold: Attend a ceremony commemorating the opening of a school recently rebuilt after sustaining significant war damage, followed by a visit to the Kandahar Hospital.

With six Afghan Militia Force (AMF) soldiers along to provide additional security, the convoy of pickup trucks twists their way through the maze of congestion that is Kandahar City.



Maj. Victoria Goodge reads to school girls at a school in Kandahar City

The streets are lined with shops and vendors, selling everything from hanging slabs of freshly killed meats, to an assortment of fruits and vegetable. A mass of pedestrians and bicyclists crowd the streets, crossing wherever they please, seemingly oblivious to the hordes of honking motorists, who all seem to be in a hurry.

The worst of these, three wheeled motto rickshaws, weave in and out of traffic with reckless abandon. Crammed with twice as many passengers as designed, these colorfully adorned hybrid vehicles venture onto sidewalks and embankments, over curbs and rocks in their unbridled haste to get to where they’re going.

In the midst of an intersection, a policeman makes a futile attempt to direct some order to the flow of traffic. With whistle blaring and hands flailing in angry gestures, his orders go largely unheeded as the throng of humanity presses steady onward in every direction. Shaking his head after narrowly escaping a head on collision with an oncoming “Jingle Truck”, Sgt. Gibbons knows change in this country won’t come easy.

“It’s going to take time—a long time,” he said. “But we’re doing all we can and taking it one step at a time.”

The CA convoy turns suddenly off Main Street onto a filthy dirt road on route to the remote Organ Dab District. Plumes of dust engulf the vehicles as they wind their way toward the Abdullah Mullah Wassi School.

The road is bordered on both sides by six foot high mud walls. The soldiers are more alert than ever now, knowing that this is a perfect set-up for an ambush. There is no other way to get there so they continue on through the dust and the bone jarring ruts in the road. With weapons at the ready, they constantly scan the surroundings for any sign of insurgent activity.

WORLD NEWS

White House To Overhaul Iraq And Afghan

Missions

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 — The White House has ordered a major reorganization of American efforts to quell violence in Iraq and Afghanistan and to speed the reconstruction of both countries, according to senior administration officials.

The new effort includes the creation of an "Iraq Stabilization Group," which will be run by the national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice. The decision to create the new group, five months after Mr. Bush declared the end of active combat in Iraq, appears part of an effort to assert more direct White House control over how Washington coordinates its efforts to fight terrorism, develop political structures and encourage economic development in the two countries.

It comes at a time when surveys show Americans are less confident of Mr. Bush's foreign policy skills than at any time since the terrorist attacks two years ago. At the same time, Congress is using President Bush's request for \$87 billion to question the administration's failure to anticipate the violence in Iraq and the obstacles to reconstruction.

"This puts accountability right into the White House," a senior administration official said.

The reorganization was described in a confidential memorandum

that Ms. Rice sent Thursday to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and the director of central intelligence, George J. Tenet.

Asked about the memorandum on Sunday, Ms. Rice called it "a recognition by everyone that we are in a different phase now" that Congress is considering Mr. Bush's request for \$20 billion for reconstruction and \$67 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. She said it was devised by herself, Vice President Dick Cheney, Mr. Powell and Mr. Rumsfeld in response to discussions she held with Mr. Bush at his ranch in late August.

The creation of the group, according to several administration officials, grew out of Mr. Bush's frustration at the setbacks in Iraq and the absence of more visible progress in Afghanistan, at a moment when remnants of the Taliban appear to be newly active. It is the closest the White House has come to an admission that its plans for reconstruction in those countries have proved insufficient, and that it was unprepared for the guerrilla-style attacks that have become more frequent in Iraq. There have been more American deaths in Iraq since the end of active combat than during the six weeks it took to take control of the country.

"The president knows his legacy, and maybe his re-election, depends on getting this right," another administration official said. "This is as close as anyone will come to acknowledging that it's not working."

Inside the State Department and in some offices in the White House, the decision to create the stabilization group has been interpreted as a direct effort to diminish the authority of the Pentagon and Mr. Rumsfeld in the next phase of the occupation. Senior White House officials denied that was the case, and said in interviews on Sunday that the idea had been created by members of the National Security Council and embraced by Mr.

Rumsfeld, who has been a lightning rod for criticism about poor postwar planning.

"Don recognizes this is not what the Pentagon does best, and he is, in some ways, relieved to give up some of the authority here," a senior official insisted, noting that L. Paul Bremer III, the head of the allied provisional authority in Iraq, will still report to the Defense Department. But one of Mr. Bremer's key deputies will sit on the new stabilization group, giving him a direct line outside the Pentagon.

Mr. Rumsfeld's spokesman, Lawrence Di Rita, said Sunday that the defense secretary was "aware of the new approach" and noted that Mr. Bremer's "relationship with Rumsfeld remains unchanged."

If Mr. Rumsfeld is giving up some authority, officials say, so is Mr. Powell. The State Department has been in charge of the Afghan reconstruction effort, but now the White House will assert new control over the interagency effort there.

"While the problems in Afghanistan are less complex," a senior official said, "the president wanted to know how come it took so long to get the highway under construction." That project has become symbolic of the slow pace of reconstruction, especially outside the capital.

The creation of the stabilization group appears to give more direct control to Ms. Rice, one of the president's closest confidantes, who signed the memorandum announcing it. For the first two and a half years of Mr. Bush's presidency, Ms. Rice often seemed hesitant to take a more active role, eschewing the kind of hands-on approach for which Henry A. Kissinger and other national security advisers were known, and viewing her job chiefly as providing quiet advice to Mr. Bush.

See **Afghan** pg. 9



SPORTS



Marlins Send NLCS Back to Chicago

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Josh Beckett and the Florida Marlins put history on hold - at least for a couple of days. With the Chicago Cubs set to clinch their first World Series trip in 58 years, Beckett buzzed Sammy Sosa in pitching a two-hitter and leading the Marlins to a 4-0 win Sunday in Game 5 of the NL championship series.

Even more notable: Beckett became the first pitcher to throw a postseason shut-out against the Cubs since Babe Ruth did it for Boston in the 1918 World Series opener.

"We needed a good outing from a starter. I knew that going in. They had roughed us up pretty good," Beckett said. "We needed to pitch better."

Despite nearly a century of failure in their past, the Cubs aren't about to panic.

Mark Prior is set to start in Game 6 Tuesday night against Florida's Carl Pavano. If he's needed, fellow ace Kerry Wood would pitch Game 7 the next day as Chicago tries to reach the Series for the first time since 1945.

"We feel confident with those guys on the mound, especially after a loss," Baker said.

Only three times in LCS history and five times in World Series play have teams come back from a 3-1 deficit to win a best-of-seven matchup.

The Marlins began their comeback behind Beckett, who struck out 11 in the first complete game of his 51 starts in the majors. He also tied the NLCS record for fewest hits allowed in a complete game.

Beckett's signature moment came in the fourth, when he came close to Sosa. The tension wasn't nearly as high as it was between the Yankees and Red Sox at Fenway Park in the ALCS a day earlier, but it had the ballpark buzzing.

"He overreacted a lot. I don't know if he was trying to pull a Boston Red Sox-Yankee thing," Beckett said. "It was pretty ignorant. I'm not trying to hit him."

"He probably wasn't throwing at me," he said. "But because of what happened before, maybe that was my reaction."

The Cubs already had made arrangements with the Marlins to use champagne chilling in the Florida clubhouse for a celebration, if necessary. It wasn't.

Florida had its bags packed for Chicago well before the game began. The Marlins looked for any edge to prolong the season, as evidenced by their Sunday morning chapel service at the stadium.

"It was a little more motivational than usual and we had a lot more people there," team chaplain Chris Lane said.

Not that the Marlins needed any extra help with Beckett on the mound.

"Once again, it all starts with pitching," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "When we get good pitching, we can be troublesome."

At 23, the hard-throwing righty pitched the best game of his young career, allowing only two singles and a walk. He shut down a Cubs team that had totaled 33 runs in the first four games of the series.

Lowell hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Carlos Zambrano in the fifth, and Rodriguez and Conine later connected.

Lowell's hit was just his third of the postseason. Injured for most of the final month, he came back to hit an 11th-inning homer that won Game 1.

Beckett allowed only one ball beyond the infield before the Cubs got their first hit, a soft single by Alex Gonzalez with two outs in the fifth. Moises Alou also singled in the seventh as hitters on both sides struggled in the twilight start.

A half-inning after Marlins rookie Miguel Cabrera was drilled in the left elbow by Zambrano, Beckett almost nailed Sosa.

Beckett's first pitch in the fourth was a head-high heater to Sosa - tailing in toward him, too - that caused the slugger to duck and stumble backward. Sosa immediately sprang to his feet and took a couple of steps toward the mound, shouting and pointing his bat at Beckett.

"I was so surprised I had to shoot something else back at him. It was kind of baffling to me, really," Beckett said.

Plate umpire Larry Poncino and Rodriguez, the Marlins catcher, quickly sealed off Sosa to prevent big trouble as a few Cubs rushed to the top step of the dugout.

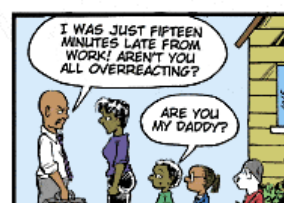
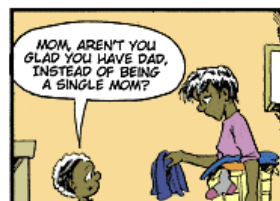
Rodriguez patted Sosa on the back, trying to calm down his fellow All-Star while they stood several feet up the third-base line. While Rodriguez, Sosa and Poncino were sorting it out, Beckett calmly walked in from the mound and took a new ball from the umpire's bag.

"I'm sure he wasn't trying to do it," Baker said.

When play resumed, Beckett threw a pair of 98 mph fastballs and eventually struck out Sosa looking at a changeup.

Beckett retired Sosa on a grounder for the final out.

WEEKLY COMICS



NFL WEEK 6 SCORES

Final OT 1 2 3 4 OT T
Carolina (5-0) « 3 0 14 3 3 23
Indianapolis (5-1-0) 0 13 0 7 0 20

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Philadelphia (2-3-0) 0 7 7 7 21
Dallas (4-1-0) « 7 3 7 6 23

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Tampa Bay (3-2-0) « 0 7 7 21 35
Washington (3-3-0) 3 7 3 0 13

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Chicago (1-4-0) 0 3 0 10 13
New Orleans (2-4-0) « 3 3 7 7 20

Final OT 1 2 3 4 OT T
Kansas City (6-0- 0) « 7 7 0 20 6 40
Green Bay (3-3- 0) 3- 14 7 10 3 0 34

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Oakland (2-4-0) 7 0 0 0 7
Cleveland (3-3-0) « 0 3 7 3 13

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Houston (2-3-0) 0 3 7 7 17
Tennessee (4-2-0) « 14 7 3 14 38

Final 1 2 3 4 T
NY Giants (2-3-0) 3 0 0 3 6
New England (4-2-0) « 7 0 10 0 17

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Miami (4-1-0) « 10 0 14 24
Jacksonville (1-5-0) 0 3 7 0 10

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Pittsburgh (2-4-0) 3 3 0 8 14
Denver (5-1-0) « 0 7 0 10 17

Final 1 2 3 4 T
San Francisco (2-0- 0) 3 13 3 19
Seattle (4-1-0) « 7 10 0 3 20

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Buffalo (3-3-0) 3 0 0 0 3
NY Jets (1-4-0) « 0 13 14 3 30

Final 1 2 3 4 T
Baltimore (3-2-0) « 3 13 7 3 26
Arizona (1-5-0) 7 3 0 8 18

Courtesy of.



HEADLINERS

Backfire Ignites Dog, Dog Sets Grass Fire

CULDESAC, Idaho (AP) — This dog was having a bad fur day. The dog, whose coat caught fire when the owner's vehicle backfired, ignited a grass fire just off U.S. Highway 95.

Firefighters doused the grass fire and reported the dog was unhurt, only smelling of burnt hair.

"I have been in firefighting for many years, but I have never seen anything like this happen," Culdesac Fire Chief Gary Gilliam said.

It happened Saturday when a motorist who ran out of fuel put gas in the tank and then primed the carburetor. On restarting, the van backfired, throwing sparks into the cab and igniting the dog's fur.

A passenger let the dog out, and it rolled in dry grass, putting out the flames on its coat but setting the grass afire.

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"They [the enemy] really don't want a part of that action," said Collins.

The primary mission for Charlie Co. is air support security. The Apaches escort all rotary wing missions in Southern Afghanistan, including re-supply and air assault operations.

The Nine apaches that line the air strip at Kandahar Air Field also make up a Quick Reaction Force of heavily armed gun ships. They can lay a blanket of shrapnel from an arsenal of 2.75 inch rockets, high-explosive, armor-piercing 30mm cannon rounds, or 100 pound Hell-Fire Missiles. This barrage of laser-guided ordinance can be unleashed on the enemy up close or from beyond the peaks of the numerous mountains that litter the southern region of Afghanistan.

The Panthers have been in Kandahar for two and a half months. Due to their precision flying, expert gunnery skills, and superior coordination with the ground troops they support, the Aviators have confirmed 29 enemy kills.

"The ultimate goal is to effectively support ground forces, to have great communication between the two, and to hit the right targets quickly," said Capt. Benny F. Collins, Charlie Company Commander, from Raleigh, N.C.

The Panthers were last deployed to Kuwait in 1998 for five months in support of Operation Southern Watch. The pilots of Charlie Co. unanimously agree that their experience here is clearly different from their time in Kuwait. Some of the major differences are the high altitude, the extremely hot temperatures, and even the type of flying that the pilots do here.

"You can talk about this all you want, but until you fly in Afghanistan, you haven't trained in these types of conditions," said Collins.

One of the biggest changes the Panthers had to get used to is the reinstitution of the diving-fire tactic. Realizing that the Coalition Forces are fighting a different enemy, the Aviators had to change to this technique as opposed to their conventional method of attack by hovering and firing from a distance.

"The heat, combined with the altitude, and the enemy situation just doesn't allow us to hover in Afghanistan," said Collins.

Overall, the Panthers are glad to be here. Originally,



CW2 John D. Piland, from Raleigh, N.C.

they were tasked to deploy to Iraq and were on stand by at Ft. Bragg, N.C. for two months. At the last minute, their orders were changed sending them to Afghanistan. Prior to arriving in Afghanistan, the unit spent another four and a half tedious months at Ft. Hood, TX.

Despite the long wait to get here, the Panthers are nothing short of motivated and ready to support any soldier in need of aerial assistance.

"Everybody wanted to get here as early as we could so we could start training," said Collins. "I've said goodbye to my wife six times, but the main thing is we want to make sure the guys on the ground know that we're here for them."

As far as the family and friends back home, the Panthers are more than ready to return to them when the times comes. But, in the mean time, they have a duty to do here and they intend on doing it to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

"We, and the soldiers that are attached to us, have sacrificed a great deal to be here and we're proud to be doing it," said Collins.

The main thing the men and women of Charlie Co. want to get across to the soldiers on the ground is that they are there for them and will support them as much as they can.

"We want them to know that we're here for them. We're proud to be doing what we do, and for them to call on us more often." Said Collins.

What it Means to Love a Soldier

By Jamie Reese

Special to American Forces Press Service

FORT HOOD, Texas, Oct. 8, 2003 —

She stands in line at the post office waiting to send a package to her husband, a U.S. Army soldier serving in Kuwait. Envelopes, pens, paper, stamps, sunscreen, eye-drops, gum, batteries, powdered Gatorade, baby wipes and Twizzlers.

He said he needed the sunscreen and baby wipes. She threw in the Twizzlers.

There's a common bond at the post office in this military town. People aren't just sending letters and packages; they are sending smiles, hope, love and just a touch of home. People look around at the others, sharing their concern, fear and pride. They take comfort knowing they are not alone.

Passing through the gate leaving the Army post, she enters another world. A world filled with pawnshops, surplus stores, barbershops, fast food galore and, of course, "Loans, Loans, Loans."

This is a life that includes grocery shopping at a place called the Commissary. A life that has her venturing to the Post Exchange, referred to as the PX, instead of heading to Wal-Mart. This is where you come to learn, appreciate and respect the ceremonious traditions of Reveille and Retreat, and of course, the National Anthem from a completely different perspective.

At 6 a.m., or as the soldiers call it, 0600 hours, Reveille can be heard across post. The bugle call officially begins the military workday. At 1700 hours Retreat sounds signaling the day's end. Soldiers render salutes, chatter fades and all eyes are drawn to the nearest flag. At 2300 hours, the bugle sounds Taps, denoting not only the "final hour" of the day, but also honoring those we have lost.

When the national anthem plays in a military town, a special aura fills the air. Men, women, and even children stop to pay their respects. Civilians place their

hands over their hearts. Soldiers salute. In this world, the anthem isn't just a prequel to the echo of "Play Ball."

Since she married her soldier and experienced the Star Spangled Banner from this perspective, she's noticed how people in civilian towns react to the national anthem. She notices the people who continue to talk, the hats that stay on, the beer that doesn't get put down, and even the jeers at the person singing the anthem. The meaning seems to be lost to a majority of people. But if she looks closely, she can see who has been blessed enough to learn this lesson. Some are grandparents, some are parents, and some are young children.

At first glance, children growing up in this world of artillery, tanks and uniforms are the same as any other kids from any other town. They do the things that kids do. They play sports, go to school, and play with their friends. The difference is that their group of friends may change once a year, or more, due to a change of duty station.

They don't have any say in this. They could be two years old and not remember a thing about it, or they may be 16 years old getting ready for prom and having to up-root and move again. They're known as "military brats," a harsh misnomer for those who learn a lifestyle of sacrifice at such a young age. Yet, it makes them strong.

The little boys become the men of the house and the little girls become the ladies. They adapt to these different situations. They live with the reality that one, or even both parents, may not be around to celebrate birthdays and holidays. They know there will be times when they will look into the stands during Little League games and see only an empty space in the bleachers.

At the same time, these kids have a sense of overwhelming pride. They brag about their daddies and their mommies being the best of the best. They know their Mom's been through deployments,

changes of duty stations, and the ever-changing schedules Army life brings. While Dad is away, she takes care of the house, the bills, the cars, the dogs, and the baby.

To cope with it all, she learns military families communicate via the Internet so he doesn't miss out on what's happening back home. But he does miss out. He won't be there for the baby's first steps, and he may have to hear his son or daughter's first words through a time delay across a static-filled telephone line.

She remembers what it was like before he left, when everything seemed "normal." Normal except for the pressed uniform, the nightly ritual of shining boots, the thunder-like sound of the Apache helicopters flying overhead, and the artillery shells heard off in the distance. OK, relatively normal — when they occasionally went to the park, spent holidays together and even enjoyed four-day weekends when he could get a pass. But, the real challenge began with the phone call.

She relives the moments before she kissed him goodbye. A phone ringing at 0400 hours is enough to make her heart end up in her throat. They've been expecting the call, but they weren't sure when it would come. She waits to hear the words, "Don't worry, it's just a practice run." But instead she hears, "Here we go."

So, off he goes to pack, though most of the packing is finished because as a soldier, he is "always ready to roll." She gets the baby, but leaves his pajamas on because it is just as well that he sleeps. She takes the dogs out, she gets dressed, all the while trying to catch glimpses of her husband. She wants to cherish his presence because she doesn't know when she'll see him again.

She knows that in other homes nearby, other families are enacting exactly the same scene.

See Love pg. 11

Afghan from pg 4

Now, four of her deputies will run coordinating committees — on counterterrorism efforts, economic development, political affairs in Iraq and the creation of clearer messages to the media here and in Baghdad.

Each working group will include under secretaries from the State, Defense and Treasury Departments, and senior representatives from the Central Intelligence Agency.

State Department officials have complained bitterly that they have been shut out of decision-making about Iraq, even as attacks on American troops increased, lights failed and oil production remained stuck far below even prewar levels.

Mr. Bush, a senior administration official said, made it clear that he wanted “all the powers of the government” turned toward making the reconstruction work in both Iraq and Afghanistan. “The president is impatient with bureaucracy,” the official said.

In the interview, Ms. Rice described the new organization as one intended to support the Pentagon, not supplant it.

“The N.S.C. staff is first and foremost the president’s staff,” she said, “but it is of course the staff to the National Security Council.” That group will in effect be taking more direct responsibility.

The council is made up of top advisers to the president who meet three times a week in the Situation Room. They have often seemed unable to coordinate efforts on the main issues relating to the occupation of Iraq. “The Pentagon remains the lead agency, and the structure has been set up explicitly to provide assistance to the Defense Department and coalition provisional authority,” Ms. Rice said.





Other officials said the effect of Ms. Rice’s memorandum would be to move day-to-day issues of administering Iraq to the White House.



The counterterrorism group, for example, will be run by Frances F. Townsend, Ms. Rice’s deputy for that field. Economic issues — from oil to electricity to the distribution of a new currency — will be coordinated by Gary Edson. He has been the liaison between the National Security Council and the National Economic Council.

Robert D. Blackwill, a former ambassador to India, will run the group overseeing the creation of political institutions in Iraq, as well as directing stabilization for Afghanistan.

Anna Perez, Ms. Rice’s communications director, will focus on a coordinated media message — a response to concerns about the daily reports of attacks on American troops and lawlessness in the streets.

Weekly Weather Forecast

<u>Tonight</u>		Clear	45°	0 %
Oct 13				
<u>Tue</u>		Mostly Sunny	79°/46°	0 %
Oct 14				
<u>Wed</u>		Mostly Sunny	79°/42°	0 %
Oct 15				
<u>Thu</u>		Sunny	77°/43°	0 %
Oct 16				

<u>Fri</u>		Sunny	76°/40°	0 %
Oct 17				
<u>Sat</u>		Sunny	75°/40°	0 %
Oct 18				
<u>Sun</u>		Sunny	78°/42°	0 %
Oct 19				
<u>Mon</u>		Sunny	78°/42°	0 %
Oct 20				

Courtesy of the weatherchannel.com

“Weekly Quote”

“Our military is serving with great courage – some of our best have fallen. We mourn every loss. We honor every name. We grieve with every family. And we will always be grateful that liberty has found such brave defenders.”

-President George W. Bush

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at
Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com

Unwaivering Determination among Soldiers

The Third Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer has the responsibility for providing ceremonial units and honor guards for state occasions, White House social functions, public celebrations and interments at Arlington National Cemetery....and standing a very formal sentry watch at the Tombs of the Unknowns. The public is familiar with the precision of what is called. "walking post" at the Tombs. There are roped off galleries where visitors can form to observe the troopers and their measured step and almost mechanical silent rifle shoulder changes. They are relieved every hour in a very formal drill that has to be seen to believe.

Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening that this show stops. First, to the men who who are dedicated to this work...it is no show...it is a "charge of honor". The formality and precision continues uninterrupted all night. During the nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men...these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honor and respect shown to these honored dead, symbolic of all American unaccounted for American combat dead. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, hot, cold...bitter cold...uninterrupted...uninterrupted is the important part of the honor shown.

Last night, while you were sleeping, the teeth of hurricane Isabel came through this area and tore hell out of everything... We have thousands of trees down...power outages...traffic signals out...roads filled with down limbs and "gear adrift" debris...We have flooding...and the place looks like it has been the impact area of an off shore bombardment. The Regimental Commander of the U.S. Third Infantry sent word to the nighttime Sentry Detail to secure the post and seek shelter

from the high winds, to ensure their personal safety. THEY DISOBEYED THE ORDER...During winds that turned over vehicles and turned debris into projectiles...the measured step continued.

One fellow said "I've got buddies getting shot at in Iraq who would kick my butt if word got to them that we let them down...I'm sure as hell have no intention of spending my Army career being known as the goddam idiot who couldn't stand a little light breeze and shirked his duty."Then he said something in response to a female reporter's question regarding silly purposeless personal risk...."I wouldn't expect you to understand. it's an enlisted man's thing." God Bless the rascal...In a time in our nation's history when spin and total bullcrap seems to have become the accepted coin-of-the-realm, there beat hearts...the enlisted hearts we all knew and were so damn proud to be a part of...that fully understand that devotion to duty is not a part time occupation.

While we slept, we were represented by some damn fine men who fully understood their post orders and proudly went about their assigned responsibilities unseen, unrecognized and in the finest tradition of the American Enlisted Man. Folks, there's hope....The gene that George S. Patton...Arliegh Burke and Jimmy Doolittle left us...survives. Now, go have another cup to pop rivet your eyelids I've got to go to work. DN

"May our perserverance in our mission here in Afghaistan be as unwaivering and determining as the Honor Guard of the Third Infantry Regiment"

-Mountain Warrior Weekly Staff

Love from pg 8

Within 15 minutes, the family is in the car heading to the "rally point." As they pull up, they see soldiers everywhere, hugging their loved ones. While people love to see tearful, joyous homecomings, fearful, anxious, farewells are another story.

Too soon, with his gear over his shoulder, he walks away. She is left behind, straining to keep an eye on her soldier. As the camouflage starts to blend, only his walk distinguishes him from the others.

She takes one last look and takes a deep breath. She reminds herself she must stay strong. No tears. Or, as few tears as possible. Just words of encouragement to the children, to her friends and to herself. Then she turns, walks back to the car, and makes her way home to a house that is now eerily quiet.

She mentally prepares for the days, weeks, even months ahead. She needs to focus on taking care of her love while he is overseas. Her main priorities will be the care packages, phone calls, e-mails, and letters sprayed with perfume. And, she can't forget to turn the stamp upside down to say, "I love you."

Taking care of her family, her friends, even strangers – this is her mission as an Army wife to do these things without a second thought. At the ripe old age of 22, she knows the

younger wives will turn to her for advice. "How do you balance a checkbook? How do you change a tire? When are they coming home?"

Only when she knows everyone else is OK, the bills are paid, the cars maintained, the lawn cut, the kids asleep, the pets calmed down, and the lights are off, does she take time for her self.

Alone at night, she runs the next day's events over in her mind to make sure it will all get finished. She reviews her checklist of things to do, things to buy for his care package. Once again, she checks the calendar to count down the days. Before turning in, she checks to make sure the ringer is on for the late night phone call that might come in from overseas.

Before she falls asleep, a few tears hit the pillow. But even as the tears escape, strength enters her mind, body, spirit and soul. She remembers why she is here. She remembers the pride and the love that brought her here in the first place, and a sense of peace comes over her, replacing, if only for a second, the loneliness, the fear and the lingering heartache she feels while her soul mate is away.

This is what it means to love a soldier.

She wouldn't have it any other way

Kandahar Krud Continued from Pg. 1

lasts for a short time. The medicines given to treat it are Imodium for the diarrhea and other various medicines to calm the stomach. If you have diarrhea, you might want to avoid foods that could make it worse, such as milk products, greasy meats, and fruits. Eat foods that will slow your intestines down, like bagels, peanut butter, chicken, and rice, added Chadwick.

The simplest solution to the KAF Krud is to exercise strict hand washing especially after using the bathroom, so you don't spread it to others and if you have it, keep replenishing your body with fluids such as Gatorade, explained Chadwick.

Even with all these precautions, it is still possible to

contract the virus.

"The main thing to remember is that if you have the symptoms and they are not excessive, then you are probably ok. But, if it develops into a high fever, you can't keep fluids down at all, you feel like you are getting dehydrated, or if you have a low class, constant, abdominal pain you need to come and see us [Charlie Med.] right away", said Chadwick.

The KAF Krud tends to get everyone at one point in their stay here. The important thing is to be prepared for it and to do everything you can to prevent it. If you don't take care of yourself the KAF Krud will get you in the end.

Transition from pg. 3

"We know there are bad guys out here that don't like what we are doing," says Goodge "All in all, we have been extremely fortunate. The AMF guys are great and they know the city. We don't get nervous unless we see them getting nervous."

A narrow gated entrance marks the location of the school. Barely wide enough to accommodate a standard size sedan, the team cautiously maneuver their Toyota pickups into the tiny courtyard and quickly set up a perimeter guard post.

The school, seemingly out of place amongst the placid setting of mud huts and dirt roads, is freshly painted a brilliant white with light green trim. A trickling stream runs along one side of the school and shade trees offer welcome relief from the relentless glare of the sun.

Major Goodge and her interpreter Farid are escorted to their seats amongst the congregation of school kids (all boys), teachers and various guests and speakers for the ceremony.

This event has commanded the presence of the Governor, the Minister of Education, the Village Leader, and the District Mullah. As they take turns to offer thanks and support for the efforts of Civil Affairs and the U.S. government, a look of accomplishment washes over Major Goodge's face. Speaking through her interpreter, she pledges continued efforts to reconstitute the region and thanks the officials for their collective cooperation on the project. She also offers high praise to the teachers and closes with these words regarding the children:

"Children are the future of Afghanistan. The children that attend this school are the key to a lasting peace in Afghanistan."

At the end of the ceremony, the children crowd curiously around the soldiers. Innocent eyes soak in every move and gesture as the team hands out pens and pencils, books and blankets to their outstretched hands. They have come to expect these tokens of gifts from the Americans.

As the CA team depart the school and make their way across town towards the Kandahar Hospital, signs of progress are evident in the eyes of the people. They wave heartily at the passing soldiers, many giving the thumbs-up symbol of goodwill. The hazy sky is awash with multi colored kites and women, rarely seen unescorted during the rule of the Taliban, now roam the city unimpeded.

"These things are all new to us. We used to get arrested for as little as playing music," says an AMF soldier affectionately known as Smiley. Wearing American desert fatigues with Staff Sgt. Stripes given to him by one of the CA crew, he vigorously directs traffic from the bed of the second pickup.

"Smiley is the best," says Gibbons as he bear hugs the slightly built Afghan soldier. "I'm going to stuff him in my footlocker and bring him home to the States with me."

Traffic screeches to a halt as locals crowd the street to gawk at a small donkey that has been hoisted completely off the ground as its taskmaster foolishly overloads the cart attached to it. The donkey, feet flailing in utter protest, lets out an ear shattering Bray, much to the amusement of the mes-

merized onlookers. As fate would have it, the load breaks loose toppling its contents of plumbing supplies on top of the owners head and sending him sprawling on the muddy ground. A split second later, the airborne donkey comes crashing to the ground, sending pipes, fixtures, and a kitchen sink flying all over the road.

Finally yielding to the relentless blare of car horns, the people reluctantly clear the street, a few stopping to assist the dazed donkey cart owner retrieve his assortment of plumbing supplies.

"Poor donkey!" gasps Goodge, her mouth agape in disbelief. "I tell ya, if there is such a thing as reincarnation, a donkey is the last thing I want to come back as. Those poor beasts get worked to death."

The entire team erupts into laughter. Here in the heartland of what used to be the Taliban stronghold, American and Afghani soldiers share a light moment of humor. That is progress.

As Major Goodge points out wells and schools built by U.S. efforts along the way to the hospital, she's quick to admit that it is by no means an easy task.

"There is some frustration among the people because relief entities [such as Non Governmental Organizations or NGOs] aren't fulfilling promises fast enough. I feel we will see a big change in attitudes as the people see their government working and see tangible signs of progress." She went on to say that the most rewarding thing for her was seeing little girls get an opportunity to attend school.

As the CA team pulls out of the hospital gates after distributing medical supplies, and heads back to the safe confines of KAF, they know they must first survive the challenge of driving through Kandahar City. Along the way they pass the plumbing supply shopper; his cart reloaded with most of the recovered goods; the burdened donkey struggling to keep pace with the demands of its taskmasters whip.

"We still have a ways to go," says Sgt Gibbons shaking his head. "We still have a ways to go."



Local Afghans traveling the old fashioned way